

Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above, attachment hereto, and comments which follow.

Turning first to the abstract, although unclear from the Examiner's action, it appears that the Examiner was objecting to the abstract, and the abstract has therefore been recast and is attached hereto in what is believed to be a proper format meeting all requirements of the Patent and Trademark Office. Approval is requested.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification in appropriate locations.

In numbered section 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, and apparently claim 2 as well. With the amendments above, it is believed that all is now in order.

In numbered section 5 at the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 9 and 10 as being improperly multiply dependent. That has now been corrected by the Amendments above, and consideration of the claims is now believed to be in order.

In numbered section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Reconsideration is requested.

The claimed method is not a compilation or mere arrangement of data independent of physical data workable with computer or programmable machine. On the contrary, the first two steps of the claimed method involve handling a so-called characterization signal which is derived from the receive signal.

Determining a covariance matrix, or "characterization matrix", for such signal is a well known type of operation for those skilled in the art of signal processing. This is conventionally done by, for example, programming a Digital Signal Processor (DSP). Then, the characterization matrix is further processed to derive timing information useful for synchronizing the receiver.

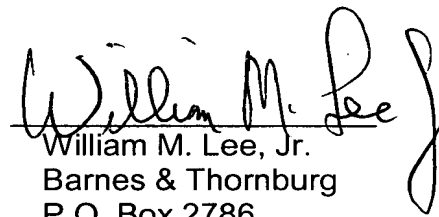
Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1 through 10 are directed to statutory subject matter and are believed to allowable over the prior art. Reconsideration is therefore urged.

Claims 10 through 20 have been added to the application to reflect the synchronization device, and correspond to claims 1 through 10, as will be seen. As claims 1 through 10 are believed to allowable, new claims 11 through 20 are believed to allowable, as well.

Given the above, it is believed that the application is now fully in condition for allowance, and the Examiner further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

December 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William M. Lee, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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